



Teacher Feature



SPARK

Media can help spark interest or help generate questions on a topic.

I introduced the episode, "The Dark Storm Night" from *Weather Hunters*. Before we watched the video, I challenged my students to answer our discussion prompts: "How do you feel during a thunderstorm?" and "what do you hear and see during a thunderstorm?". As we engaged in conversations, my students were eager to explore this topic more deeply.

MODEL

Characters in media can model skills and behaviors for children to practice.

After viewing the episode, I recreated a thunderstorm in my classroom. I flickered the classroom lights to represent lightning and made a loud clapping sound for the thunder. Just like Lily Hunter modeled in the show, my students watched for lightning and counted until they heard thunder. They documented their findings and discovered that as the time between seeing lightning and hearing thunder decreased, the storm got closer and closer.

DOCUMENT

Digital tools can be used to capture and document learning experiences as they are happening.

After our indoor thunderstorm activity, we discussed how storms make them feel. My students documented how they used their senses during storms. Then they shared the differences they observed in sunny and stormy weather. They drew pictures and shared them with one another and we continued our conversations about their previous experiences with thunderstorms.

The Lesson

A Dark and Stormy Night Viewing Guide

Objective:

Students will learn to describe the difference between thunder and lighting.

About the Teacher

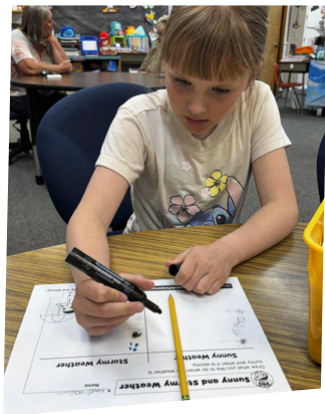
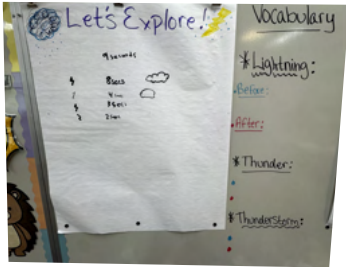
Name: Alexandra Case

Grade: K-5

Location: Galata, MT

Local PBS Station: Montana PBS

Teacher Bio: I have been an educator for four years and currently lead a multi-grade classroom in a rural one-room schoolhouse. I strive to nurture each student with patience, encouragement, and a sprinkle of silliness to help them feel safe, seen, and supported. I'm inspired every day by their resilience, curiosity, and those magical "aha!" moments that make it all worth it.



To learn about six approaches to integrating media in your classroom, [click here.](#)